CEE4803E – Designing Progress, Defining Progress
Spring Semester, 2006
Class Minutes for Lecture Held on 01-17-06
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Section 1: Administrative Business

- Class began at 6:45 p.m. in the Sustainable Education Building; class began late because of computer trouble.
- Willy's burritos was provided for dinner
- Announcement of Website www.gsfic.ga.gov click on CEE4803E
- All future meeting minutes need to be emailed to Richard by 4:30 or else you will have to make copies for the class.
- Cards were passed out with AGREE, DISAGREE, or ABSOLUTLEY to help with interruptions while each person shared.
- Homework
  - Assignment 2 handed out, get in teams of 2, email research topic to Richard by Thursday
  - Begin reading NonZero
- Class ended at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Section 2: Lecture Content

- Muddy Points from last week
  - We need a template to do the meeting minutes on
- Looked at slide show of the nouns, verbs, and adjectives written down by each student from the previous week.
  - Had to guess which major went with which set of words.
  - This activity helped get rid of the stereotypes for each major, while showing the diversity here on GIT's campus
  - This activity will be done again at the end of the semester to analyze changes in our perspectives on progress, and our perspectives on each other
- The majority of the class came from going through each persons interview, hearing them out and then discussing different aspects found in their interviews – there were many similarities between all interviews, some of the points seen were:
  - Progress was moving towards goals, moving forward, achievement
  - Many people felt that progress had to do with technology, medicine, and/or education
  - Peoples pictures of progress relate to themselves
  - 1 guy was scared about increasing the gap between America and the 3rd world
  - Many people localized their view
  - Some people had a selfless view of progress of humanity as a whole

- o Went into a discussion about ethics and future jobs and progress
- o Discussed email if technology is really progress
- o These interviews were to expose us to progress as a theory and as it applies to people
- Talked about Easterbrook article
  - o Are more options better or does this just make you want more
  - o Collapse anxiety – living in revelations through the Apocalypse
- Talked about healthcare, medicine, and progress
  - o What is the value of life
  - o What is quality of life
  - o Canadian healthcare is free – is this really progress
  - o US healthcare is agreed to be in a huge mess right now

Section 3: Commentary

Lessons Learned
- Progress is different things to different people, and seems to be based on perspective, and which aspects one deems the most important is what progress is defined by

Muddy Points
- None really, I liked the format and discussion

Suggestions for Improvement
- Make sure computer works…not really anyone's fault though

Section 4: Questions
- Is Email bad?
  - o Well this is a personal opinion of progress but the general consensus of the class leaned towards yes email is bad because it causes people to be impersonal, they lose grammar skills, and overall an ability to interact with other human beings. However, email does have benefits, and in many ways yes it is progress, but society is abusing the progress and making it turn into regression.